



CABINET FOR HEALTH
AND FAMILY SERVICES

Department for
Community Based Services

November 2021

The Vision

Marta Miranda-Straub, Commissioner

DCBS prioritizing staff response to trauma

The Trauma and Resilience Pillar is one of five foundational areas within our overarching goal of Building a 21st Century DCBS. Department leadership recognizes the impact of this pandemic -- we are experiencing unprecedented staff turnover due to retirement and low wages. We have always had turnover and retention issues, however not at this magnitude. We are simply not competitive in the new job market. The state has not provided cost-of-living raises in over 10 years, our staff does not feel valued and now they have multiple choices of employers who are paying bonuses

and increased wages due to the state and national demands of the



From the Commissioner

The staff is managing rising cases with highly traumatized clients -- this pandemic has affected all of us. Part of the work staff does results in experiencing chronic stress, vicarious trauma and secondary traumatic stress (STS).

Read the story [here](#)



Equity, Social and Economic Justice

Equity ABC Corner: Multidimensional poverty and its impact

Welcome to Equity ABCs, a monthly corner in our DCBS newsletter written by Dr. Brandy Kelly Pryor, Health Equity Advisor for DCBS and Founder of BKP Strategies.

At BKP we developed a program tool, E is for Equity: Equity ABCs, and I am excited that is a part of the work I get to bring to DCBS.



Dr. Brandy Kelly Pryor

1. Read the newsletter and this corner and tell other staff.
2. Take the quick two-minute survey [here](#).
3. Suggest more words at any time [here](#).

On to this month's concept...Multidimensional Poverty

Multidimensional

Are you familiar with the Rubik's Cube?

Read the story [here](#)



Michelle Williams

Michelle Williams of DSR named Superhero

Congratulations to our most recent Superhero, Michelle Stevenson-Williams, PM Centralized Intake Supervisor in our Department of Service Regions! Michelle has a challenging and important role, leading a second-shift team that screens after-hours abuse and neglect reports from across the state.

Read the story [here](#)

CQI's Redesign Evaluation Phase begins with eye toward outcomes

As part of the CQI Redesign Evaluation, the phase of evaluation has formally begun. Over the Summer months, an internal team of co-leads formed to take on the task of designing an evaluation plan to guide the process.

The team consists of Chris Cordell, Bryan Lusby, Jessica Bowman, Shannon Greer, Tiffany Mullis, and Melinda Vise. Three primary questions were developed for the purposes of early evaluation of the implementation to date and they are as follows.

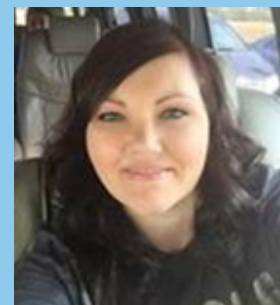
[Read the story here](#)

CQI Specialists Porter and Hall support Northeastern, Eastern Mountain regions

Christi Porter and Karissa Hall, along with their Branch Manager, Melinda Vise, have continued efforts following the CQI forums in supporting and training local Family Support teams in Northeastern and Eastern Mountain and P&P CQI teams in the Northeastern Service Region.



Christi Porter



Karissa Hall

[Read the story here](#)

Khoury's work helps reduce need for residential treatment

Danielle Khoury is a Social Service Specialist in the Division of Protection and Permanency and someone who knows the value and positive effects of Kentucky's adoption of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act – and how by using prevention services, DCBS has a greater capacity to serve children in care in the least restrictive settings. Danielle has also led efforts with DCBS



Danielle Khoury

partners to help protect youth who are survivors or at risk of human trafficking. She is also a parent who says she is “mindful of quiet moments” and the value of self-care. Danielle has an important role in DCBS prevention efforts! Learn more about her!

[Read the story here](#)



Family Children and Youth

DPP Update: Staff helps relocate LTC facility residents

The Adult Protection Branch worked diligently and tirelessly for six weeks providing for the safety of residents at a long-term care (LTC) facility closure.

Stacy Carey, Cliff Bryant and Shelley Hearn, worked on-site at the facility in Louisville from mid-September to early November to coordinate the placement, movement and transfer of more than 80 residents.

The four nurse consultants in the Adult Protection Branch - Judi Candido, Brooke Gibson, Donna Elkins and Tammy Ricks - also worked many hours off-site to download medical records, develop referral packets, and assisting staff with sending out referral packets and follow-up calls.

[Read the story here](#)

PCAK offers free Prevention Pal Kits

Our partners at Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky (PCAK) have a great resource for their Partners is Prevention to promote and support the relationship between caregiver and child. This year, PCAK has created a Prevention Pal Kit to promote home safety so that parents, guardians, and children will utilize this prevention kit together to speak about the ways home safety can be promoted by everyone in the home. Each Prevention Pal Kit will include:

- a tip sheet illustrating how to use the Prevention Pal Kit,
- a Home Safety Brochure outlining ways to prevent accidental injury in the home,
- Two Prevention Pal stickers,
- Two certificates to give children after caregivers have talked to them about safety in the home.



Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky™

DCBS staff is welcome to these free kits! PCAK requests staff limit their Prevention Pal Kit orders to 10 kits. But there may be opportunities for additional kits to be requested after orders close.

To request your free partner item, please email Laura Anderson (landerson@pcaky.org) by Nov. 30, 2021.

In your email request, please be sure to include how many kits you are requesting as well as a mailing address for where the kits should be sent. You must provide a physical address, as items cannot be delivered to a PO Box.

Health



Living ➔ **Well**

Challenge reminds staff to slow down

Practicing good self-care can not only reduce the effects of secondary traumatic stress, improve our health and give us a more positive outlook, it can earn staff \$25 in LivingWell rewards this month.

Registration for the LivingWell StressLess Challenge is underway at KEHPLivingWell.com and runs through Nov. 24. The Challenge runs Nov. 17 through Dec. 14.

Read the story [here](#)



UK College of Social Work Dean Jay Miller, Training Resource Center Associate Director Karen Bowman, ASK Program Director Lauren Lynch, and Centers and Labs Director Missy Segress accept their honor.

ASK wins national award

Our partners at the University of Kentucky College of Social Work have received a 2021 Adoption Excellence Award in the Child Welfare/Judicial Systemic Change category from the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The award is for the Adoption Support for Kentucky – Virtual Interaction Program (ASK-VIP). Congratulations!

Read the story [here](#)